

friendly" has been battered around the Chamber like none other. But when it comes right down to it, being family friendly can only mean one thing: a vote for the balanced budget amendment.

Without passing a balanced budget amendment, American families lose out on lower interest rates, faster job growth and much needed relief from a debt amounting to more than 80 percent and a lifetime of taxes.

Keep in mind that in 1994, the Federal Government spent \$203 billion in interest on the national debt. That is more than it spent on education, job training, public works and children's nutrition programs combined.

Mr. Speaker, what could be more family friendly than relieving your children and their children of having to pay inflated taxes for years to come?

Pass the balanced budget amendment.

#### MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we will soon consider a 1997 fiscal year budget resolution that slashes Medicare and Medicaid funding. The American people have given us a clear mandate. They have overwhelmingly told us time and time again to protect our neediest citizens, the disabled, the poor, our children and the elderly.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have a different vision. Their priorities are jumbled, their budget reflects a flawed economic theory and confusion.

Two weeks ago I vote for a budget that reflected my district's and the country's priorities. I chose to vote for a 6-year balanced budget that proposed to increase the investments in education, job training, infrastructure, and at the same time protecting Medicare, Medicaid and not demolish it.

The recent report issued by the Medicare trustees that forecasts Medicare insolvency does not tell us anything new. We know that Medicare needs mending. Let us take the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and get to work. I sincerely hope that the speaker is sincere when he said he wants to work in a bipartisan way with the President to save Medicare for our parents and grandparents.

#### SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2579

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my support for H.R. 2579, legislation to promote international travel and tourism in the United States. This measure privatizes the functions of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, an agency

which costs taxpayers \$16.7 million in 1995. The Congress correctly decided to zero out the USTTA. However, there is a role for a federally chartered, privately funded organization to promote travel to the United States.

I am an original cosponsor of the bill, and our Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials, which I chair, recently marked it up, where it was approved by voice vote. It will be taken up by the full Committee on Commerce in the very near future.

Travel and tourism is the Nation's leading export industry. As one example, in 1993, foreign visitors spent \$443 million in my home State of Ohio, which ranked 18th among the States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay particular tribute to our friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin, TOBY ROTH, who has led this effort on behalf of the travel and tourism industry and all Americans for this critical legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill and look forward to the markup in the full Committee on Commerce.

#### THE STRAIGHT FACE TEST ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the words are flying again on Medicare and Medicaid. Here we go. It must be an election year. What do you think?

Look, the American people are pretty smart about this issue. When the leadership on the other side, one of them said he was proud he never voted for it, another one said he hoped it would wither on the vine, another leader on that side said that they were trying to make cuts like no one had ever seen before, but now all of a sudden, as we get near to the election year, everybody is trying to rewrite history and suddenly say, no, we have come to save it, come to save it, somehow that does not pass the straight face test.

Last year we had an attempt to try and put Medicare on the right path so that the report that we are going to be getting would not be coming, had we done that. Yet the other side rejected it because they did not want to do that. They wanted to cut Medicare and put it into tax cuts for the people who need tax cuts the least, the ones who have the most get more. I do not understand that. I do not understand that at all.

So we are at a point of do we mend it or do we mash it. The mashers are trying to say they want to mend. We want so say, it is time to deal with it straightforwardly.

#### WARNING SIGNALS ON MEDICARE

(Mr. UPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I take the well today to remind my colleagues that you and I were not here in the

House when the warning signals were up about the S&L debacle back in the early 1980's. Those scoundrels from Texas and California, Florida and Illinois took the taxpayers for \$150 billion, and it was wrong. Congress should have acted in the early 1980's, and they did not.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great program that seniors in this country love called Medicare. The warning signals were out there a year ago that it was going to go belly up by the year 2002. This body did nothing. We tried to get bipartisan cooperation and nothing happened.

Today a report is coming out saying that it is a year worse. Instead of going belly up in 2002, it is going to go belly up in 2001, \$90 billion worse than it was last year. Three cabinet members are going to sign that report as they did last year.

Yet we read in the CQ facts record for Monday, Laura Tyson says that the trust fund is solvent. Bills will be paid and the administration's plan would assure solvency for a decade.

Let us walk the walk instead of talk the talk. It is going bankrupt. We need to do something about it.

#### ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Small Business:

#### *To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to you my annual report on the state of small business, and to report that small businesses are doing exceptionally well. In the year covered by this report, a record 807,000 new firms reported initial employment. Firms in industries dominated by small businesses created almost 60 percent of the nearly 3.3 million new jobs. Business failures and bankruptcies declined at some of the sharpest rates in a decade.

Small businesses have both contributed to and benefited from the recent strength of the economy. The deficit reduction plan I initiated in 1993 has cut the budget deficit in half. The economy has created 8.5 million new jobs since January 1993—almost all of them in the private sector. The combined rate of unemployment and inflation is at its lowest level in more than 25 years.

A major success story has been in the women-owned business sector. Women are creating new businesses and new jobs at double the national rate. Today, women own one-third of all businesses in the United States. Clearly, there is no stopping this fast-growing segment of the economy.

Last June I met in Washington with nearly 2,000 small business owners—